

Social Monitoring Report

Project No. 37113-013
Loan No 2769- BAN
July 2018

Power System Efficiency Improvement Project

Part B (i) – Kaptai 7.4 MW Solar PV Plant

January- June 2018

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BPDB	Bangladesh Power Development Board
Project	7.4 MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid-Connected Power Generation Plant at Kaptai



1.0 Introduction

Bangladesh Power Development Board through the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from ADB to install a 7.4 MWp Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid-Connected Power Generation Plant at Kaptai, Rangamati, Bangladesh. According to the renewable energy policy-2008, electricity generation by renewable energy is targeted to be 5% of the total generation by 2015 and 10% by 2020. This project will add 7.4 MW of power to the national grid system contributing to improved and more regular supply of power to the country as a whole.

2.0 Description of the Project

2.1 Background

Bangladesh Power Development Board currently generates power through various thermal power stations in Bangladesh; it is also responsible for operating the Kaptai 230 MW capacity hydropower project at Kaptai. The latter is the only operational hydropower plant in the country and the first units were constructed in 1962. The power company has a current staff of 447 with 871 sanctioned posts at Kaptai and owns 849 acres of land for the hydropower plant operation. Countrywide, BPDB is now eager to diversify into other sources of power generation and is at present, looking for grid-connected solar PV projects. Project benefits also include savings from the non-use of alternative sources of conventional fossil fuels. There is a significant reduction in emissions (e.g. gases and particulate matter) over the project life and a resultant net positive impact. The project avoids the potential discharge of CO₂ to the atmosphere.

2.2 Site Selection and Location

Site visits were undertaken to determine a suitable site for 7.4 MW station taking into consideration technical, environmental and social and possible resettlement issues. The site selected is at N22°29'31.69" and E92°13'36.89". The map below indicates the selected project site in relation to the Karnafuli dam and reservoir and the existing substation to which the project needs to be connected by a new 11KV. The proposed power line is shown as a yellow line (see Figure 1)

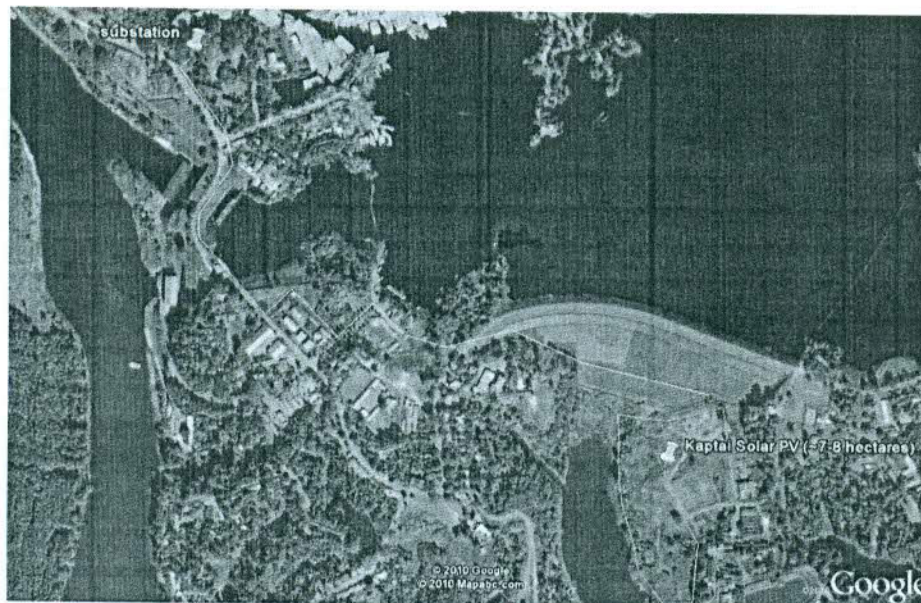


Figure 1: Kaptai proposed site and 11KV evacuation line

The proposed site is located at the apron on the immediate downstream, side of the dam at an elevation of around 20 meters above Mean Sea Level (MSL). This compares with the height of the dam wall at 118 m above MSL. The height of dam water behind the dam is around 106 m above MSL depending on seasonal variations. Approximately 7- 8 hectares of the area identified (see Maps) could be used for solar PV.



3.0 Social & Resettlement Impacts

All the land for the project, including the transmission lines is owned by the Bangladesh Power Development Board, and free from any occupants or establishments. Development of the site for this project will have no impact on livelihoods or income of any households or people. No issues are triggered under ADB safeguard policy and no indigenous population will be impacted by the project at this site. The project site has been vacant land since the construction of the main Kaptai dam in 1962 (see Figure 2). The site is not located in a sensitive ecosystem, and has no historical and cultural value. The site is in a hollow, on low lying land immediately behind the main hydropower dam wall.



Figure 2: The project site showing the land is vacant

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendation

There is no loss of livelihood or resettlement problems arising from the implementation of this project. The nature of the project site coupled with the clean nature of solar power generation means that the project will not cause any significant lasting environmental and social impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning.

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